Amendments to the Claims:

This claim listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A method for providing a modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets when administered to a mammal, wherein the oligonucleotide has from 17 to 35 nucleotides, the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, present in the oligonucleotide is modified with a 2'-O-methyl, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene for which inhibition of expression is desired, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, wherein such gene or RNA transcript is from endogenous mammalian chromosomal DNA, a eukaryotic or prokaryotic pathogen, or a virus selected from the group consisting of human immunodeficiency virus (type 1 or 2), influenza virus, herpes simplex virus (type 1 or 2), Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus, and administering the oligonucleotide to the mammal.

17. (Currently amended) A method for providing a modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets to an individual with a disease caused by aberrant gene expression, wherein the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, present in the oligonucleotide is modified with a 2'-O-methyl, wherein the oligonucleotide has from 17 to 35 nucleotides, and is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene that is aberrantly expressed, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, wherein such gene or RNA transcript is from endogenous mammalian chromosomal DNA, a eukaryotic or prokaryotic pathogen, or a virus selected from the group consisting of human immunodeficiency virus (type 1 or 2), influenza virus, herpes simplex virus (type 1 or 2), Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, respiratory syncytial

virus, hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus, and administering the oligonucleotide to the individual having the disease.

18. (Currently amended) A method for reducing side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide administered to a mammal, comprising:

(a) modifying the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, present in the oligonucleotide with a 2'-O-methyl; wherein the oligonucleotide has from 17 to 35 nucleotides and is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene that is aberrantly expressed, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, wherein such gene or RNA transcript is from endogenous mammalian chromosomal DNA, a eukaryotic or prokaryotic pathogen, or a virus selected from the group consisting of human immunodeficiency virus (type 1 or 2), influenza virus, herpes simplex virus (type 1 or 2), Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus; and

(b) administering the oligonucleotide to the mammal,

wherein administration of the modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide results in fewer side effects than the administration of an unmodified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide.

19. (Currently amended) A method for reducing side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide comprising modifying the C and/or G of each CpG dinucleotide, and only the CpG dinucleotide, present in the oligonucleotide with a 2'-O-methyl, wherein the oligonucleotide has from 17 to 35 nucleotides and is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene that is aberrantly expressed, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, wherein such gene or RNA transcript is from endogenous mammalian chromosomal DNA, a eukaryotic or prokaryotic pathogen, or a virus selected from the group consisting of human immunodeficiency virus (type 1 or 2), influenza virus, herpes simplex virus (type 1 or 2),

Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus.